

The Upper Falls News

The Upper Falls News is an email newsletter that covers what's going in our village. The Upper Falls News is brought to you by the Upper Falls Area Council but it's intended to cover any and all news in the village. If you have any upcoming events, activities, news or stories related to Upper Falls just send them to info@UpperFallsNews.org and we'll include them in the next newsletter.

Upper Falls Trivia - Who was Bobby Braceland? (answer below)

Area Council Votes to Support the Greenway - This past Sunday (2/12) the Area Council held a public meeting in the gymnasium of the Emerson Community Center to gauge neighborhood support for the Upper Falls Greenway project - the plan to convert the railroad tracks behind Needham Street into a mile long walking/jogging/bicycle trail. George Kirby from the Newton Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force gave an excellent presentation and slide show that described the plan in detail.

Approximately 90 people attended and 15 of them spoke publicly. The support for the Greenway proposal by those in attendance was overwhelming. All of those who spoke endorsed the plan, though a few with minor reservations. Two speakers raised concerns that the plan work to insure that options remain open for a future light rail extension on that corridor. Jerry Reilly listed the concerns and issues (potential for increased crime/noise/trash, parking, the crossing at Oak Street) raised by a small number of abutters in his canvassing of the neighborhood.

Candace Havens, director of Newton's Planning and Development Department, expressed the Mayor's support for projects like the Upper Falls Greenway project and emphasized the City's willingness to work with all interested parties on the project.

Our local Upper Falls aldermen Deb Crossley, John Rice and Brian Yates were in attendance as well as aldermen David Kalis, Greg Schwartz and Stephen Linsky.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Area Council voted unanimously (9-0) in support of the Greenway. The plan now moves to City Hall where negotiations on the contract with

the MBTA can begin and the various other aspects of the project planning can proceed.

Best of Upper Falls - Two of our neighborhood businesses won coveted "Best of Boston" awards from Boston magazine in 2011. They won in the rhyming (in Boston) categories of "Spa" and "Bar" (Spah and Bah).

[La Residencia Spa](#) - Best of Boston: Day Spa, West

You could go to one of those fancy spas with the stark furniture and the green apples stacked perfectly so. But when you're in need of coddling, a place that's more welcoming than antiseptic is refreshing. La Residencia, located in a renovated two-story house with shabby-chic décor, has a cozy vibe. And a day there feels less like a clinic visit and more like a day with girlfriends—girlfriends who wax, extract, and massage, that is.

[Biltmore Bar and Grille](#) - Best of Boston: Bar, West

"Newton Upper Falls" and "hipster pub" aren't words you normally hear in the same sentence. Yet there it is: a suburban bar sporting a comfortably dark atmosphere, live music on weekends, an old-school craft cocktail menu, and a killer beer list. Add in well-above-average nibbles, and you've got patrons young and old, hip and preppy, all coming back time and again.

Sorry For the Broken Link - In the last edition of the Upper Falls News we mentioned that Elliott Kronenfeld, our Upper Falls neighbor from Thurston Road is running this year's Boston Marathon to raise money to fight Leukemia and Lymphoma. Unfortunately we sent a broken link. Here's the corrected one - check out [Elliott's training log](#) and consider donating to this great cause.

What Kind Of Parks and Recreation Would You Like? - The city has begun circulating an on-line survey to find out what the citizens' priorities are when it comes to parks, recreation, conservation and open space. The results of the survey will guide the administration in making choices and allocating resources in the years ahead. So take a few minutes and let City Hall know what you think is most important by taking the [Recreation and Open Space Survey](#).

Where's the Cinnabon? - Local resident Jerry Reilly has been writing occasional blog columns for the Newton Patch called "Dispatch From Upper Falls" Here's a [recent column](#) about the Mall at Echo Bridge.

Who's Got an Apartment or House to Rent? - Don't worry, we're definitely not planning on turning the Upper Falls News into Craigslist/UF but we thought we'd pass on this request from Pam Weissman, a Countryside parent. The Weissmans (two daughters and a dog) are looking to rent an apartment or house in Upper Falls this spring so that they can stay at Countryside School. If you have any tips or leads pass them on to info@UpperFallsNews.org and we'll see to it that Pam gets them.

Spread The Word - Our goal is to collect email addresses from every resident of Upper Falls as well as anyone else who's interested in the village. Please help spread the word and urge your friends, family and neighbors to sign up for The Upper Fall News. They can just [click here to subscribe](#).

Send Us Your News - If you have any upcoming events, activities, news, trivia, stories, anecdotes or jokes related to Upper Falls just send them to info@UpperFallsNews.org and we'll include them in the next newsletter.

Upper Falls Trivia Answer - The park on Chestnut Street in Upper Falls is called Bobby Braceland Playground. It was named after much beloved Newton police officer Bobby Braceland. Officer Braceland was the department's Youth Officer and was involved with a wide variety of community activities. When he died at a relatively young age, the city renamed the Upper Field Playground as the Bobby Braceland Playground in memory of a good officer, good citizen and good neighbor. Today Officer Braceland's son, also named Robert, also serves on the Newton police force.